

REMARKS

A first Office Action was mailed on March 19, 2004. Claims 1 - 14 are pending in the present application. With this response, Applicants amend claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 – 14, and add new claims 15 - 19. No new matter is introduced. Support may be found, for example, at page 10, line 10 – page 12, line 12 of Applicants' specification.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY CLAIM

Upon information and belief, Applicants mailed a priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119 together with certified copies of the priority documents on April 2, 2002, and have received no acknowledgement to date as to the claim and as to receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents (Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-335155, 2001-195520). Applicants respectfully request formal acknowledgement of the priority claim, and of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1 – 3, 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,435 to Miller et al. Claims 4, 5, and 7 - 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,689,618 to Gasper et al. Applicant1 amend claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 9 – 14 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

In independent claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 – 14, Applicants discloses a method, apparatus and computer-readable program for information processing, the method comprising the steps of: a)

selecting a predetermined letter from a plurality of letters, b) displaying a first object formed by adding visual effect on the selected letter, c) displaying a second predetermined object, d) accepting a user's instruction for moving the second object, e) relatively moving and displaying the first and second objects, f) comparing display positions between the first object and the second object after the step of relatively moving the first and second objects, and g) making a judgment based on a result of the comparing step.

Miller discloses a method for rendering a character as a set of polygons that can be manipulated using three-dimensional animation techniques (see, e.g., column 1, lines 41 - 58 of Miller). Unlike Applicants' claimed invention, Miller fails to disclose or otherwise suggest Applicants' claimed steps for displaying a second predetermined object (not including an added visual effect), relatively moving and displaying each of the first and second objects, comparing display positions for the moved objects, and making a judgement based on a result of the caring step.

The Examiner suggests that a data structure disclosed in FIG. 3 of Miller provides Applicants' claimed means for comparing display positions of moved objects (see, e.g., column 5, line 63 – column 6, line 6 of Miller). However, while the data structure of Miller may provide a logical positioning of objects, Miller fails to disclose or suggest that the data structure provides a display positioning of objects. Moreover, Miller fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed means for comparing display positions of first and second objects for the purpose of making a judgment. These aspects of Applicants' claimed invention are also neither disclosed nor suggested by Gasper.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 – 14 are neither anticipated nor made obvious by the combination of Miller and Gasper, and thereby stand in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 19, consisting of independent claims 1 , 6, 7, and 12 – 15 , and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he or she is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

KMZ ROSENMAN
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-2585
PHONE: (212) 940-8800/FAX: (212) 940-8776
DOCKET No.: SCEY 19.130 (100809-00060)